

Message Text

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21

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

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FM AMCONSUL PORT MORESBY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 578

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

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ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PDEV, PGOV, PP

SUBJ: CITIZENSHIP, THE NEXT CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUE

1. DURING WEEKEND IN TAPINI, MHA LOUIS MONA, WHO REPRESENTS GOILALA AREA OF CENTRAL DISTRICT, TOLD ME IT IS OPEN QUESTION WHETHER COALITION CABINET WILL WIN THE VOTE ON CITIZENSHIP SECTION IN CONSTITUTION WHEN CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY MAKES DECISION.

2. MONA (PPP MEMBER) WAS VERY CRITICAL OF STAND TAKEN BY MOMIS AND KAPUTIN ON CITIZENSHIP, SAYING MORE ADVANCED PARTS OF COUNTRY, SUCH AS BOUGAINVILLE AND WEST NEW BRITAIN COULD GET ALONG WITHOUT EXPATRIATES BUT MORE BACKWARD PARTS OF COUNTRY STILL NEEDED EXPERTISE AND SUPPORT OF NON-NATIONALS. SAID IT WOULD BE VERY FOOLISH OF COUNTRY TO MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR PEOPLE LIKE CHAN AND JEPHCOTT TO CONTINUE MAKING REAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO DEVELOPMENT OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA.

3. IF COALITION CABINET WINS CITIZENSHIP ISSUE, MONA THINKS INDEPENDENCE WILL COME IN NOVEMBER OR DECEMBER, PROBABLY
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THE LATTER. IF NOT, HE EXPECTS THAT SOMARE WILL SEEK ELECTION

IN JANUARY.

4. COMMENT: I AGREE WITH MONA THAT THERE COULD BE SERIOUS

PROBLEMS OVER THE CITIZENSHIP ISSUE. WE SHOULD EXPECT AT
LEAST ONE MORE CLIFF HANGING EPISODE BEFORE THE DATE OF
INDEPENDENCE IS DECIDED. IN ADDITION, AGREEMENT MUST BE REACHED
ON THE ORGANIC LAWS, AN UNKNOWN AREA WHICH MAY OR MAY NOT
CREATE DISSENSION. FURTHER, THE REPORT THAT THE NATIONAL
PRESSURE GROUP WILL ATTEMPT TO BRING DOWN THE CABINET IN THE
JUNE 17 SITTING IS STILL CIRCULATING.

5. ON THE OTHER HAND, MHA ANTON PARAO, ONE OF THE DISSENTERS
IN THE UNITED PARTY, TOLD ME LAST WEEK THAT INDEPENDENCE
MUST COME IN 1975, THAT TOO MANY PEOPLE WOULD BE DISAPPOINTED
IF IT DID NOT.
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